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# REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(for the period 1 April-30 September 1992)

## Introduction

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, the Security Council established a demilitarized zone (DMZ) along the Iraq-Kuwait border and decided to set up an observer unit with the following tasks: to monitor the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and the DMZ; to deter violations of the boundary through its presence in and surveillance of the DMZ; and to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action mounted from the territory of one State into the other. By its resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, the Security Council approved the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the above provisions; 1/ noted that the decision to set up the observer unit had been taken in paragraph 5 of resolution 687 (1991) and could be terminated only by the Council's decision; and decided to review the question of termination or continuation as well as the modalities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) every six months. In keeping with the above provisions, the Security Council last reviewed UNIKOM's mandate on 6 April 1992 and concurred with my recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained for a further six-month period. 2/

2. The purpose of the present report is to provide the Security Council, prior to its review, with an overview of UNIKOM's activities during the last six months.

## Organization

3. As of September 1992, the composition of UNIKOM was as follows:

Military observers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | 7 | Nigeria | 7 |
| Austria | 7 | Norway | 7 |
| Bangladesh | 7 | Pakistan | 8 |
| Canada | 1 | Poland | 6 |
| China | 15 | Romania | 6 |
| Denmark | 6 | Russian Federation | 15 |
| Fiji | 6 | Senegal | 7 |
| Finland | 6 | Singapore | 7 |
| France | 20 | Sweden | 6 |
| Ghana | 7 | Thailand | 7 |
| Greece | 6 | Turkey | 6 |
| Hungary | 6 | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 15 |
| India | 6 | Uruguay | 7 |
| Indonesia | 6 | United States of of America | 15 |
| Ireland | 6 | Venezuela | 6 |
| Italy | 5 | | |
| Kenya | 6 | | |
| Malaysia | 6 | | |
| Total | | | 254 |

Administrative and logistics units

| | |
|---|---|
| CANENG (engineers) | 44 |
| Chile Air (helicopters) | 50 |
| DANLOG (logistics) | 45 |
| NORMED (medical) | 20 |
| Total | 159 |
| Total military personnel | 413 |

The authorized strength of the military observers is 300, of whom 46 are currently on stand-by in their countries. UNIKOM includes 186 civilian staff, of whom 90 are international staff and 96 are locally recruited.

4. There has been a change in the command of UNIKOM. Major-General T. K. Dibuama (Ghana) took over as Chief Military Observer with effect from 13 July 1992. Major-General Günther Greindl (Austria) returned to his country's service.

5. UNIKOM has the use of two small fixed-wing civilian aircraft contributed by the Government of Switzerland and a chartered aircraft that is used for the transport of personnel and equipment between Baghdad and Kuwait. On 19 August 1992, the Government of Chile informed me of its intention to withdraw its helicopter unit by the end of October 1992. Bids are being solicited from commercial contractors to replace the unit.

6. During the period under review the Canadian engineers cleared and marked 50 kilometres of new patrol tracks, disposed of 1,200 pieces of ordnance and reconfirmed the safety of previously cleared routes. Work was carried out at UNIKOM headquarters Umm Qasr and Camp Khor to improve security and working conditions. Four landing strips were built at UNIKOM positions in the DMZ. In addition, observation towers were erected at some of the patrol and observation bases and a modified version of the towers is on order for the others. For protection, UNIKOM has begun to install shelters at its positions; two such shelters have been built to date.

7. The Danish logistic unit (DANLOG) continued to carry out vehicle maintenance, supply and security tasks, the latter mainly for the headquarters facilities at Umm Qasr and Camp Khor and for the logistic base in Doha.

8. The Norwegian Medical Unit (NORMED) maintained a sick-bay facility at Umm Qasr, serving the headquarters and the northern sector, and first-aid posts at the central and southern sector headquarters. It also assisted a number of civilians injured by exploding ordnance.

9. UNIKOM continued to provide technical support to other United Nations missions in Iraq and Kuwait. In particular, it assisted the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission with air transport and by clearing mines at the border marker sites; it also provided accommodation, transport and communications. Support was further given to the United Nations return of property from Iraq to Kuwait. UNIKOM provided movement control in respect of all United Nations aircraft operating in the area.

## Demilitarized zone

10. The length of the DMZ is about 200 kilometres, to which must be added the Khawr Abd Allah waterway, with a length of about 40 kilometres. For the most part, the DMZ is barren and almost uninhabited, except for the towns of Umm Qasr and Safwan. There are airfields at Safwan and Umm Qasr and a port at Umm Qasr.

11. Much of the DMZ is still littered with unexploded ordnance and mines, particularly in the south. Private companies under contract to the Government of Kuwait continued clearing the DMZ on the Kuwaiti side.

12. The edges of the DMZ are marked only in a few places on the main access roads and tracks, and the absence of proper markings elsewhere has been a factor in several violations. Once the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has completed its work, UNIKOM will realign the DMZ based on the boundary as demarcated by the Commission and mark the edges of the DMZ so that they are clearly identifiable.

## Deployment and concept of operations

13. UNIKOM remained deployed in the DMZ, as outlined in previous reports (see attached map). For operational purposes it has divided the DMZ into three sectors, each with a headquarters and six patrol/observation bases. UNIKOM exercises full freedom of movement throughout the DMZ.

14. UNIKOM's concept of operations remained based on a combination of patrol and observation bases, observation points, ground and air patrols, investigation teams and liaison with the parties at all levels. In carrying out its tasks, UNIKOM employs a set of surveillance aids, which include maritime radar for the Khawr Abd Allah, night vision devices, high-powered binoculars and video cameras. In addition, UNIKOM uses the Global Positioning System, a satellite system which allows a very accurate determination of location, something that is of great value in the terrain of the DMZ. As reported earlier, 3/ UNIKOM also conducted trials of ground surveillance radars; it has since determined that such radars would add only marginally to its observation capability and that the considerable expense would therefore not be justified.

15. The Chief Military Observer and other senior staff of UNIKOM maintained regular contacts with the authorities in Baghdad and Kuwait City. At the local level, liaison continued with the police on both sides, particularly with regard to civilian activity in the DMZ. These contacts again proved useful in dealing with complaints and facilitating UNIKOM's operations. Both Governments continued to extend their cooperation to UNIKOM.

## Violations and complaints

16. During the first part of the reporting period, the situation in the DMZ was generally calm. During the second part, there was a heightening of tension in the northern sector and in the Khawr Abd Allah as a result of friction relating to civilian activity (see paras. 19 and 20 below). UNIKOM observed three types of violations of the DMZ: minor incursions on the ground by small groups of soldiers, often just one or two; overflights by military aircraft; and the carrying by policemen of weapons other than side-arms. The following table summarizes the violations observed by UNIKOM:

| | Iraq | | | | Kuwait | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Ground | Air | Police weapons | Total | Ground | Air | Police weapons | Total |
| 1-30 Apr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 1-31 May | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 4 | 14 |
| 1-30 Jun | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 10 |
| 1-31 Jul | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| 1-31 Aug | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1-30 Sep | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 1 | 14 | 39 |

| | Member States cooperating with Kuwait | | | Unidentified | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Ground | Air | Total | Ground | Air | Total |
| 1-30 Apr | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1-31 May | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1-30 Jun | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1-31 Jul | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 1-31 Aug | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1-30 Sep | 0 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 15 | 16 |
| Total | 1 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 19 | 20 |

17. UNIKOM raised these violations with the party concerned, with a view to having action taken to prevent a recurrence. Since the declaration of a "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, UNIKOM has observed a number of overflights of the DMZ at an altitude too high to allow identification. I have asked the Governments that had declared the "no-fly zone" to avoid actions that might compromise the demilitarized status of the DMZ or adversely affect the work of UNIKOM.

18. During the reporting period, UNIKOM received 30 written complaints from Iraq and 28 from Kuwait. UNIKOM investigated each complaint and conveyed its findings to the parties concerned.

## Other matters

19. The work of the Boundary Demarcation Commission has drawn attention to the fact that some of the farms operated by Iraqi farmers in the northern sector are actually on Kuwaiti territory. The Kuwaiti authorities view these farmers with suspicion, and there have been repeated allegations that the farmers were actually Iraqi military or security personnel. Tension has accordingly risen in the area and a number of firing incidents have taken place, including an incident on 30 August in which a UNIKOM military observer was injured while trying to restore calm. UNIKOM has stepped up its activity in the area and is keeping it under constant observation. However, there is a risk of further conflict when the boundary has been demarcated. UNIKOM has been in touch with both sides, with a view to maintaining calm and promoting a timely solution. As an interim measure, UNIKOM has asked the Iraqi authorities to provide a detailed register of all farmers in the area concerned in order to enable it to monitor the activities of the farmers closely and to look into any unusual presence or activity which could cause concern.

20. Fishing by Iraqi fishermen in the Khawr Abd Allah increased during the period. On a number of occasions, UNIKOM was contacted by the Iraqi authorities about fishermen who were overdue, or to help retrieve boats which had been detained by the Kuwaiti authorities. On the other hand, UNIKOM received complaints from the Kuwaiti authorities that Iraqi fishing boats had violated Kuwaiti territorial waters. UNIKOM was able to resolve some of these problems, and it increased its surveillance of the Khawr Abd Allah in order to prevent incidents.

21. Since July 1992, the safety of United Nations staff in Iraq, including UNIKOM staff, has been a matter of some concern. Several incidents occurred in which staff received threatening telephone calls in their hotel rooms, car tyres were slashed and car windows broken. During the period there were also demonstrations against United Nations activities in Iraq. UNIKOM remained in close touch with the United Nations Security Coordinator in Baghdad on this matter and raised it also directly with the Iraqi authorities. In recent weeks the situation has improved.

## Financial aspects

22. Should the Security Council continue the mandate of UNIKOM beyond 9 October 1992, the cost of maintaining the Mission for a further period of six months would be approximately $30 million, based on the continuation of its existing strength and responsibilities. The necessary resources for that period would be sought from the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

23. As at 28 September 1992, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNIKOM Special Account amounted to $32.1 million. This represents approximately 26 per cent of the total assessments for the period since the inception of the Mission through 8 October 1992.

## Observations

24. As described above, the situation in the DMZ, which continued to be calm during the first weeks of the period under review, has since been marked by a gradual heightening of tension in some areas. Although this trend has not so far become a cause for serious concern, it needs to be carefully watched, and UNIKOM has maintained a high level of vigilance.

25. The main source of tension is the issue of the status and property rights of the Iraqi farmers who will be affected by the demarcation of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. This issue has given rise to incidents, in one of which a UNIKOM military observer was injured. I have conveyed to both sides my concern at the situation and urged them to exercise restraint.

26. I wish to draw attention once again to the requirement that the parties maintain a reasonable distance from the boundary line shown on UNIKOM's map. Most minor incidents can be avoided if this simple rule is observed.

27. In the light of all the circumstances, it is evident that the continued functioning of UNIKOM is an indispensable factor in maintaining the DMZ, preventing or containing further incidents and reducing tension. I therefore recommend to the Security Council that it maintain UNIKOM for a further six-month period.

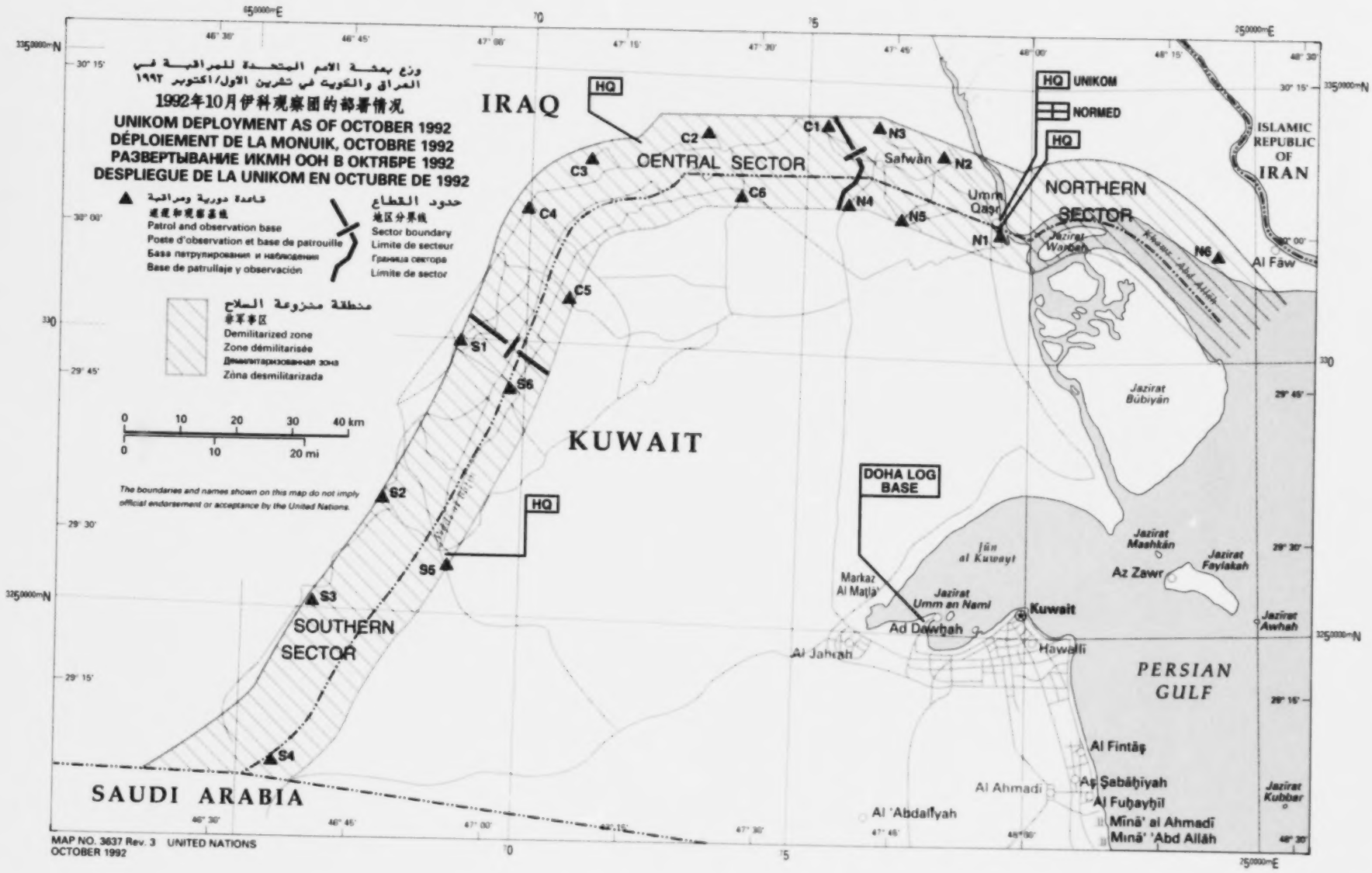
28. I wish to express warm thanks to Major-General Günther Greindl, who led UNIKOM with great skill from its inception until last July. I also wish to pay tribute to his successor, Major-General T. K. Dibuama, and to all the men and women of UNIKOM, both military and civilian, for their devotion and skill in serving the United Nations. Their discipline and bearing reflect credit on their countries and on the United Nations.

## Notes

1/ S/22454 and Add.1-3.

2/ S/23789.

3/ S/23766, para. 16.


وزع بعثة الامم المتحدة للمراقبة في العراق والكويت في تشرين الاول/اكتوبر ١٩٩٢
1992年10月伊科观察团的部署情况
UNIKOM DEPLOYMENT AS OF OCTOBER 1992
DÉPLOIEMENT DE LA MONUIK, OCTOBRE 1992
РАЗВЕРТЫВАНИЕ ИКМН ООН В ОКТЯБРЕ 1992
DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNIKOM EN OCTUBRE DE 1992
قاعدة دورية ومراقبة
巡逻和观察基地
Patrol and observation base
Poste d'observation et base de patrouille
База патрулирования и наблюдения
Base de patrullaje y observación
حدود القطاع
地区分界线
Sector boundary
Limite de secteur
Граница сектора
Límite de sector
منطقة منزوعة السلاح
非军事区
Demilitarized zone
Zone démilitarisée
Демилитаризованная зона
Zona desmilitarizada
0 10 20 30 40 km
0 10 20 mi
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
IRAQ
KUWAIT
SAUDI ARABIA
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
HQ
HQ UNIKOM
NORMED
CENTRAL SECTOR
NORTHERN SECTOR
SOUTHERN SECTOR
DOHA LOG BASE
C1
C2
C3
C4
C5
C6
N1
N2
N3
N4
N5
N6
S1
S2
S3
S4
S5
S6
Safwān
Umm Qasr
Jazirat Warbah
Khawr 'Abd Allāh
Al Faw
Jazirat Būbiyān
Jūn al Kuwayt
Jazirat Mashkān
Jazirat Faylakah
Az Zawr
Markaz Al Matlā'
Jazirat Umm an Nami
Ad Dawḥah
Kuwait
Jazirat Awhah
Al Jahrah
Hawallī
PERSIAN GULF
Al Fintās
Al Ahmadi
As Sabāḥiyah
Al Fuḥayḥīl
Al 'Abdalīyah
Mīnā' al Ahmadī
Mīnā' 'Abd Allāh
Jazirat Kubbar
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